

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Figs. 2A, 2B, 7A and 7B, the neck device 222 includes a first piece 702 attached to the head 224, a second piece 704 attached to the first piece 702, and a third piece 706 attached to the second piece 704. One end 708 of the third piece 706 is attached to the top portion 216 at a hinge 710. Another end 712 of the third piece 706 is attached to a follower 714 by a bolt 716. The follower 714 is shaped with a first hole 718 for receiving the bolt 716 and a second hole 720 for connecting with the protrusion 526 of the rounded piece 524. The follower 714 includes a middle pliable portion 722 having a zigzag shape between the holes 718 and 720.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring also to Figs. 10, 11A, and 11B, a portion 1000 of the external flexible skin 110 is fastened to the second end 532 of the appendage 220. For example, the portion 1000 may be sewn with thread 1010 to an eye 1110 formed in the second end 532. As the second end 532 traverses the range of motion shown in ~~Figs. 8A-8G~~ Figs. 9A-9G, the portion 1000 of the skin 110 is periodically pulled toward (tensioning) and away from (slackening) the second end 532. This periodic tensioning and slackening causes the skin 110 in the portion 1000 to deform during the cycle. The overall motion of the appendages 220 and the skin 110 of the toy 100 imparts a realistic appearance of a dog moving its paws.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The pivot gear 1204 may have half the number of gear teeth as the crank gear 1202, such that the pivot gear 1204 operates at twice the speed of the crank gear 1202. Thus, as the pivot

Applicant : Michael J. Iaconis et al.
Serial No. : 10/698,930
Filed : November 3, 2003
Page : 3 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: 06181-918001

gear 1204 completes one revolution, the crank gear ~~1204~~ 1202 completes one half of a revolution.